



# MusiGram

Arizona State Music Teachers Association  
Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Fall  
2021

**Debbie Dinkel**  
ASMTA President



Dear ASMTA Members,

Our new year has begun. The fall is coming and the cooler air is upon us. We had a marvelous monsoon this summer, bring blankets of green to the desert.

I'd like to remind everyone to be sure your memberships are up to date. Renewals and new memberships can be obtained through MTNA.org. Please reach out to fellow teachers who aren't yet members of ASMTA and invite them to join our great organization. We have so much to offer with our state events and our varied local association events.

ASMTA is partnering with RCM and ABRSM evaluation programs, in addition to ASP, our study program. These options will provide teachers with a wider variety of options in customizing teaching to students of different needs. Each program offers various elements that make it more appealing depending on your studio and individual student needs. Mandarin Cheung-Yueh, our IMTF Chair and ABRSM representative, has prepared a very detailed comparison of the three programs for your review. See her portion in this Musigram.

The MTNA Performance Competitions are coming soon. Our 2nd VP Dr. Yali Luo is heading this up. She does a fantastic job! This will be held online this year. Registration is past at this point, but the deadline for video submissions is November 5th by 8pm AZ time. The winners will be announced on November 15 via email and online. This year we have 47 registrations with 44 for performance and 3 for composition. The winners will proceed to the Southwest Division in January of 2022, with the final winners proceeding to the Nationals at the MTNA Conference March 26-30 in Minneapolis. I hope for an excellent experience for all involved.

The MTNA National Conference will be held at the Hilton, Minneapolis, MN on March 26-30. Consider attending.

For more learning, MTNA is offering many webinars online on a large variety of topics. You can find archived webinars as well as live on Friday afternoons at [MTNA.org](https://www.mtna.org).

The Third Annual ASU/ASMTA Piano Pedagogy Day will take place on Saturday, October 30, 2021. The guest clinician will be Ms. Gail Berenson, Professor Emerita of Piano at Ohio University.

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## ASMTA Board of Directors

### Officers 2021-2022

<b>President</b>	Debbie Dinkel
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Pres. Elect</b>	Dr. Michelle Wachter
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Dr. Yali Luo
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President</b>	Dr. Ian Houghton
	Gloria Singleton
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Vice President</b>	Astrid Morales
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lynette Barney
<b>Secretary</b>	Lynn Moser, NCTM
<b>Certification</b>	Melodie Acker, NCTM
<b>Arizona Study Program</b>	Dr. Barbara Russell, NCTM
<b>RCM Liaison</b>	Dr. Andrew O'Brien, NCTM
<b>ABRSM Liaison</b>	Dr. Mandarin Cheung-Yueh, NCTM
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Kassandra Weleck, NCTM

### Local Associations

<b>CMTA (Cochise)</b>	Hope Struse
<b>EAMTA (Eastern Arizona)</b>	Trisha Simmons, NCTM
<b>EVMTA (East Valley)</b>	Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, NCTM
<b>NAMTA (Northern Arizona)</b>	Chase Coleman
<b>PMTA (Phoenix)</b>	Nellie Cronin
<b>TMTA (Tucson)</b>	Jayne Bigelow

### Administrative and Committee Appointees

<b>Advertising</b>	TBD
<b>Archivist</b>	Shalvi D'Arcangelo
<b>Arts Awareness</b>	Astrid Morales
<b>Competitions – Composition</b>	Devin Gardner
<b>Competitions – Performance</b>	Dr. Yali Luo
<b>College Faculty Forum</b>	Hannah Creviston, NCTM
<b>Communications Coordinator</b>	Nina Tahbaz
<b>Honors Recital</b>	Yelena Golberg
	Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM
	Dr. Mandarin Cheung-Yueh, NCTM
<b>Independent Music Teachers Forum (IMTF)</b>	
<b>Membership</b>	Nina Tahbaz
<b>MTNA Foundation</b>	TBD
<b>Publications Editor</b>	Heather Baldwin
<b>Student Chapters</b>	Hannah Creviston, NCTM
<b>Technology</b>	Nancy Keuper
<b>Website</b>	Susan Traylor

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The Third Annual ASU/ASMTA Piano Pedagogy Day will take place on Saturday, October 30, 2021. The guest clinician will be Ms. Gail Berenson, Professor Emerita of Piano at Ohio University. Please contact Hannah Creviston for more information: [Hannah.creviston@asu.edu](mailto:Hannah.creviston@asu.edu).

Please reach out if you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or comments for ASMTA. Your input is very important. Our Board is working diligently to bring opportunities to teachers and students alike with our programs and activities. Enjoy a beautiful fall! I look forward to serving each of you.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Dinkel  
ASMTA President  
[asmtapresident@gmail.com](mailto:asmtapresident@gmail.com)



**Michelle Wachter**  
ASMTA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

With the beginning of the new teaching year, I hope you have found renewed energy and joy in meeting with your students and colleagues in person again. While the technological additions from the past year and a half may be here to stay, there is nothing quite like the in-person interactions we have with students and each other.

I am very excited about the slate of activities each of our ASMTA local associations has planned for the year. There are recitals, workshops, presentations, competitions, and so much more. I encourage you to take advantage of the events offered by your local association this year, and feel free to invite a friend!

Part of my job as 1st Vice President is to serve as a liaison between local associations and the state board. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your questions, comments, and ideas. I am looking forward to getting to know you all over the next two years.

I hope you all have a productive and music-filled fall.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Wachter  
ASMTA 1st Vice President  
[michelle.wachter@nau.edu](mailto:michelle.wachter@nau.edu)

**Ian Houghton**  
**Gloria Singleton**  
ASMTA Co-3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

ASMTA Conference 2022  
June 2-4, 2022  
El Conquistador Resort in Tucson

### **The Hybrid Studio: Teaching in the Post-Zoom Era**

The past two years have required us all to make enormous adjustments to our way of teaching. From online lessons to virtual recitals, music education has adapted to a new paradigm like never before. Consequently, numerous technologies and practices have made their way into our profession with lasting influence and staying power.

Our conference will discuss the new technologies that have arisen out of this period along with celebrating traditional topics that remain pertinent as our studios return to in-person normalcy. By sharing these new tools and ideas, we can better adapt to the needs of students and foster greater excellence and enjoyment in the art of music making.

### **Call for Presenters and Proposals**

Do you have a topic you would like to present at ASMTA Conference? Send us your proposal! The hybrid theme is meant to encourage the discussion of both new technologies and 'traditional' topics in music education. We look forward to hearing from you and what you would like to share with your colleagues.

**Deadline for Proposals: March 31, 2022**

Submit proposals to:  
Dr. Ian Houghton  
[ianhoughtonpiano@gmail.com](mailto:ianhoughtonpiano@gmail.com)

Stay tuned for more information about conference as the year progresses but make plans to join us. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,  
Ian Houghton  
Gloria Singleton  
ASMTA Co-3<sup>rd</sup> VPs

### **AmazonSmile**

*Did you know...* You can support the Arizona State Music Teachers Association through your Amazon purchases! Simply (1) log into AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)) with your Amazon account, (2) search for ASMTA (Arizona State Music Teachers Association – Tucson, AZ) in the charities available, and (3) set it as your charity of choice. Eligible purchases will then provide a percentage back to ASMTA.

***Log in and start donating today!***

**Astrid Morales Torres**  
ASMTA 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President



Dear ASMTA members,

It is my great pleasure to start my duties as your new ASMTA 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President. The past year has been challenging for all of us as teachers and I am looking forward to collaborating with all of you and learning from everyone.

I would like to thank Suszy Traylor for her hard work during these years and for being a wonderful model for this position. I am very grateful for all of her advice and ideas.

As your new 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President, I would like to focus my attention on Arts & Awareness. The arts have suffered the most from this pandemic and it is important that our communities recognize this.

I am looking forward to discussing this topic with all of you.

Sincerely,  
Prof. Astrid Morales Torres  
D.M.A. Piano Performance Candidate  
Arizona State University

**Nina Tahbaz**  
ASMTA Membership Chair

Welcome to the 2021–2022 year! As of September 22, ASMTA has 370 registered members. Please join me in giving a warm welcome to our newest members:

Andrew Blasdel	Hanna Povar	Randi Rudolph
Xuxiang Zou	Kejin Li	Cherie Scott
Michael Bryson	Greta Pasztor	Katy Webster
Chuan Voon Choy	Stephanie Krueger	Deborah Sue Osborn

If you have not yet renewed, please do so as soon as possible to continue to access all member resources, educational opportunities, publications, and services. You can renew online at [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org), by calling MTNA at (888) 512-5278, or by emailing [mtnanet@mtna.org](mailto:mtnanet@mtna.org).

REMINDER: If you want to keep your listing on ASMTA's Find-a-Teacher list for 2021–2022, you must renew your MTNA/ASMTA membership by October 30<sup>th</sup>!

If I can be of any help with membership renewals or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch! My email is [ntahbaz@asu.edu](mailto:ntahbaz@asu.edu).

Sincerely,  
Nina Tahbaz  
ASMTA Membership Chair

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**Hannah Creviston, NCTM**  
Collegiate Chapter Chair

The Third Annual ASU/ASMTA Piano Pedagogy Day will take place on Saturday, October 30, 2021. Our guest clinician will be Ms. Gail Berenson, Professor Emerita of Piano at Ohio University. She is a dedicated teacher, performer, author and knowledgeable authority on musician wellness issues. She will present on "The Role of the Teacher in Keeping Our Students Healthy" and "Strategies for Coping with Performance Anxiety." These are topics that are always useful, but especially useful during a pandemic.

As always, we will have collegiate member presentations and a pedagogical music concert. This will be a virtual event. For more information, to register, or to submit a collegiate presentation or a pedagogical music performance, please email [Hannah.creviston@asu.edu](mailto:Hannah.creviston@asu.edu).

**SAVE THE DATE:** University of Arizona will be hosting the GP3 conference August 5-6, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hannah Creviston  
Collegiate Chapter Chair

The UA Collegiate Chapter met yesterday, September 13th. There were eight new members present and five returning members. Past President, Dr. Eleni Stavrianou, Zoomed in to greet members, to discuss benefits of joining the Collegiate Chapter, and to preview events from last year. Members also elected new officers, including: Brandon Mejia and Ivan Yang, Co-Presidents; Soo Yoen Kim, secretary; Debbie Osborn, treasurer; and Harrison Sheckler, publicity chair. Brandon and Ivan will send out a Doodle Poll to schedule the next meeting of the chapter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Zdechlik

**Yelena Golberg**  
**Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM**  
ASMTA Honors Recital Co-Chairs

#### **James R. Anthony Honors Recital**

We are happy to announce that the **2022 James R. Anthony Honors Recital** will be held **in person on Saturday, June 4, 2022, in Tucson**, in conjunction with the 2022 ASMTA Conference. Location and time TBA.

#### **Please note the following deadlines:**

1. Applications may be submitted online on the ASMTA website beginning **Monday, February 21, 2022** and no later than **11:59 p.m. on Friday, April 22, 2022**.

2. All application fees must be paid either online at the ASMTA web site or by check (payable to ASMTA) **postmarked by Friday, April 22, 2022** and sent to: Yelena Golberg, 5704 E. Aire Libre Ave., #1018, Scottsdale, AZ 85254.

3. If the number of applicants requires that preliminary auditions be held, they will be held via video recordings. Video recordings must be:

a. Posted to YouTube by **11:59 pm on Wednesday, May 4, 2022**.

b. The link(s) to your video(s) must be emailed to Mary Beth Shaffer, [mbs723@shafferstudio.net](mailto:mbs723@shafferstudio.net), by **Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 11:59 pm**.

Further information regarding the 2022 Honors Recital may be found on the ASMTA website at the following link: <https://www.asmta.org/events/state-honors-recital/>.

Sincerely,  
Yelena Golberg  
Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM  
ASMTA Honors Recital Co-Chairs



**Mandarin G Cheung-Yueh, NCTM**  
ASMTA Independent Music Teachers Forum (IMTF) Chair

Dear ASMTA members,

I hope you have enjoyed a restful summer and have continued to stay well. As we settle into a new year of teaching, IMTF has plans for presentations on technology, lesson planning, unconventional repertoire, and method books, during the preferred time window (10am-noon) on preferred days (Mondays & Fridays), all based on the findings from the recent 2021 Survey completed by members this past August. Most, if not all, of these sessions will be presented on Zoom to maximize attendance.

Our season begins with a two-part workshop on *Technology in the Music Studio*. PMTA member Jennifer Foxx will share her favorite iPad apps, digital games and online resources to use with students, as well as some quick tips for organizing your iPad in *Add Some \*Bling\* to Your Teaching* on Friday, October 22. Non-Mac/PC users need not feel neglected for Suszy, on the following Friday,

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IMTF, Cont. from p. 4

will share a broad spectrum of practical but fun tips and tricks, from organizing files/folders and creating shortcuts on the computer to using Google Drive to share files, to help members navigate studio tasks in *30 Tips in 60 Minutes*.

Watch for details on *Beyond the Conventional Solo Repertoire: Duets, Arrangements, Non-Classical Music & More, Putting Together a Dynamic Lesson for Students of All Ages & Levels, and Comparison of Method Books* in upcoming monthly MusiEmails.

I also worked closely with Debbie Dinkel, Kassandra Weleck, and Dr. Michelle Wachter on a formal ASMTA Board vote to adopt ABRSM, which the board approved, alongside RCM and ASP, as an assessment program for ASMTA. Additionally, State Certification Chair Melodie Acker and I will develop a structured program to provide concrete guidance and support for members seeking MTNA Certification, which we hope to unveil at the 2022 State Convention.

As always, feel free to contact me at [cmk467op53@cox.net](mailto:cmk467op53@cox.net) if you have any questions or concerns.

Your ASMTA IMTF Chair,  
Mandarin G Cheung-Yueh

### Dr. Barbara Russell, NCTM Arizona Study Program



Greetings, Arizona Teachers! I hope you are off to a wonderful new school year and that your studios are full of beautiful music. I am excited for the addition of in-person events for our students over the coming months, and look forward to live music performances once again, when possible. Despite the need for strictly online evaluations for the Arizona Study Program in 2021, we still made great strides to provide a positive evaluation experience for participating students and teachers. In fact, we had 184 teachers enroll their students, and 1,482 students enrolled. We would like to thank our online adjudicators and valuable volunteers who made all this possible.

As we look ahead to the 2022 Arizona Study Program event, I would like to announce the ASP Committee's decision to conduct the upcoming ASP evaluations in person. In addition, we will also be offering an "Online Pilot Program" to

continue building upon the online foundation that Susan Traylor worked so hard to put in place. The purpose of the "Pilot Program" is to offer teachers the online evaluation option, within the confines of a manageable enrollment base. In this way, the online option can be refined and streamlined so that it can support growing numbers each year in addition to the in-person option.

The number of students enrolled in the "Pilot Program" will be limited this year and can be accessed when students are enrolled for ASP online, like last year. There will be a required liability waiver required for those opting for the in-person evaluations, and this can be accessed on the ASMTA website, as well.

Please visit the ASMTA website under the Arizona Study Program tab to find all your ASP information in one place, including your Packet 1 information and enrollment information available on October 1. By making these changes, we are preserving the longevity of the Arizona Study Program for our future teachers and students. I wish you all a successful Fall semester!

## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

### Hope Struse President, Cochise Music Teachers Association

What a year it has been! I think we definitely can all agree to the ups and downs; the highs and lows of this year.

CMTA is excited to share that they are able to resume entirety of annual events. These typical events include summer fundraiser, spring competitions and fall/spring performance opportunities for the students of Cochise County.



I do want to give a shout out to our 'beating heart' of the CMTA: Rosi, Debbie and Karen! Never the ones to miss a meeting, always the first to volunteer for the next event. We are grateful to have such dedicated members allowing the CMTA to continue to touch the lives of students through music. Thank you for all you do.

We hope and plan to continue in our monthly presenters. This 'lifelong learning' benefits all members and students are encouraged to attend. The presenters share in their success.

Wishing you all a great rest of the year.  
Until next time,  
Hope Struse





**Dr. Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, NCTM**  
President, East Valley Music Teachers Association



Dear ASMTA members,

I am honored to be the EVMTA president this year and I am looking forward to working with both our local members but also with the state association members and leadership.

Since I took on my position, EVMTA has been preparing for the new school year 2021-2022 with a list of events that will hopefully take place in person or online, depending on the progression of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am very thankful to our past president, Sherin Moustafa, for preparing things ahead of time and making it easier to step into her shoes.

We already had our first two membership meetings. In August, we started the school year with the kick-off meeting when event chairs introduced the events for the upcoming year. Members were glad to catch up with the news and discuss past and future events.

We were fortunate to receive several donations of books, among them a large and beautiful collection from ASMTA long-time member Carol Sue Rickel. The books were distributed to our members at the meeting. Our second workshop was a Zoom Presentation by Jennifer Foxx, a PMTA member, who shared her experience of how to create learning and promote understanding and engagement in a piano studio.

Our first students' event was the Organ Stop Pizza party on September 11<sup>th</sup>. It was a great success and we thank our new event chair, Robert Avril, for overcoming obstacles of COVID closures and uncertainty and overseeing this large fundraising event with more than 200 participants.

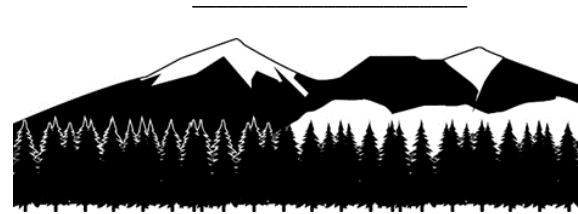
On September 18<sup>th</sup>, we had our first Board meeting of the new school year over Zoom since online meetings provide flexibility to many members who travel or are unable to attend in person. We are thinking of using Zoom in the future for the board meetings.

For the prestigious ASMTA Honorary Life Membership award, we are proud to suggest two of our great teachers: Ken Noble and Paula Dah. We wish them good luck in the process.

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, we received sad news that our long-time member, Ruth Yandell, passed away. Ruth was the Mesa Community College (MCC) full-time piano instructor until a year ago when she retired. She was an EVMTA member, a wonderful teacher, pianist, educator and enthusiastic supporter of many students. She was also a caring mother, grandmother, and a friend and she will be missed greatly by many members of our community.

EVMTA members are all looking forward to a great year in 2021-2022.

Sincerely,  
Radmila Stojanovic-Kiriluk, NCTM  
EVMTA President 2021-2022



**Chase Coleman**  
President, Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association

Northern Arizona Music Teacher's Association had its first live meeting since 2019 on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. We discussed the scheduling of recitals, masterclasses, lectures, ASP adjudications and the Flagstaff Spring Piano Festival, along with COVID protocols and safeguards for those events, as well as some changes to our bylaws to make clear paths of succession for certain positions in the chapter as well as the possibility of a website.

We are looking forward to a vibrant and hopefully in-person 2021-2022 year of recitals and events.



**Jayme Bigelow**  
President, Tucson Music Teachers Association

The Tucson Music Teachers Association looks forward to a great year of music making and education. On November 5, 2021, Kassandra Weleck will present "The One-Armed Pianist" to share repertoire and ideas for working with the student experiencing injury. Next, on January 14-15, 2022, we welcome Peter Mack, Professor of Piano at Cornish College of the Arts, for a Lecture & Master Class in Holsclaw Hall, University of Arizona. This renowned performer and educator will certainly have encouragement for our teachers and students. And finally, our 69<sup>th</sup> Piano Ensemble Concert will be back at Centennial Hall on March 12, 2022.



Jayme Bigelow  
President, TMTA



# **Nellie Cronin**

President, Phoenix Music Teachers Association



PMTA's plans for 2021-22 have been falling into place with sweet surprises along the way. As of last May, several PMTA Board Positions were yet unfilled. It was certainly worth the wait, though! In mid-June, Snezana Krstic stepped in as President Elect. Shortly thereafter, Jenny Su agreed to be our Corresponding Secretary. In early August, Molly Janusz accepted the Recording Secretary position.

All of our committees, too, were gradually filled over the summer. Currently our only vacant position is VP of Events, and we're optimistic that the perfect fit will come along!

Snezana Krstic quickly and ably arranged a full slate of excellent presenters for all of our General Meetings. Here are our presenters and their topics through January:

**Sept. 9:** Dr. Mandarin G Cheung-Yueh/ABRSM Overview

**Oct. 14:** PMTA's own Dr. Jelena Vladikovic/Technique

**Nov. 11:** PMTA's own Dr. Michelle Cohen/Recital-Lecture on Brazilian Composers

**Dec. 9:** Holiday Social

**Jan. 13:** Dr. Vanja Nikolovski/Composing for Young Musicians

Snezana succeeded in finding a beautiful, intimate Scottsdale location willing to host all of our 2021-22 General Meetings: The Piano Store (owned by Larry Bateman; located in The Pavilions at Talking Stick Shopping Center). Through January, all General Meetings are solidly scheduled to be held there. If Az Piano in Phoenix is able to provide parking for us in the months of February, March, and April, General Meetings in those months *may* be held there. (Presently parking is inadequate at Az Piano due to DOT construction.) If Az Piano is still not an option, The Piano Store is ready and waiting to further accommodate us!

On the subject of mitigation, the PMTA Board has decided that masks will be required at all General Meetings. For each in-person Student Event, there will be a statement on the registration form expressing that it is PMTA policy that all participating students, their families, and teachers are to faithfully adhere to all mitigation guidelines established by the event venue.

While most locations for both our student and teacher events are in place, we live knowing that online may become necessary. Our committees stand ready to adjust. PMTA's oldest and largest event is Piano Ensemble. This year is its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! At this point, the search is still on for a Piano Ensemble venue. In addition to working to procure a location, this clever and adaptable committee is in the process of designing an alternate version of Ensemble that will be *mostly* virtual. More details will come as this plan evolves!

A couple of wonderful developments in terms of Student Event locations have materialized. Grand Canyon University has

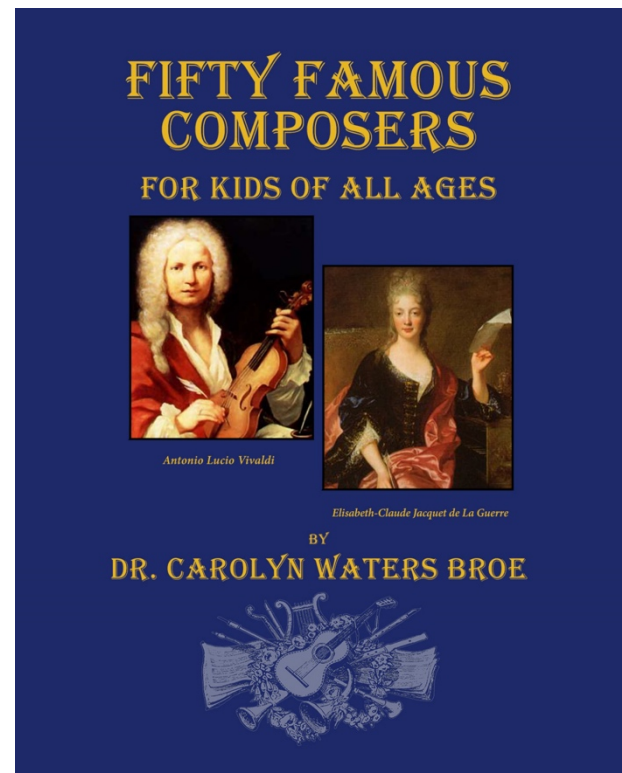
offered to host our Student Recital Series free of charge! PMTA has previously paid \$100 per Student Recital at various piano store locations. Another amazing surprise is that we have found a new location to replace Paradise Valley Mall, our longtime Eastside location for Music at the Mall: Fashion Square Mall! Fashion Square is a very classy venue and has eagerly agreed to host this festive, day-long event in December!

As far as upcoming Student Events go, our first Student Recital (in person at GCU with an option for online participants to be broadcast on a screen in real time) is September 25, and Fall Festival (in person at Glendale Community College) is October 29-31.

Upcoming teacher events are Sharing Plus on September 23 (online; ASP guidelines and resources will be discussed) and Performance Plus on October 7 (home of Bobbi Stoutenburgh; teacher performances).

Our yearbook/website is still in process as some dates and locations of events are TBD. PMTA is joyfully and energetically poised for the new year!

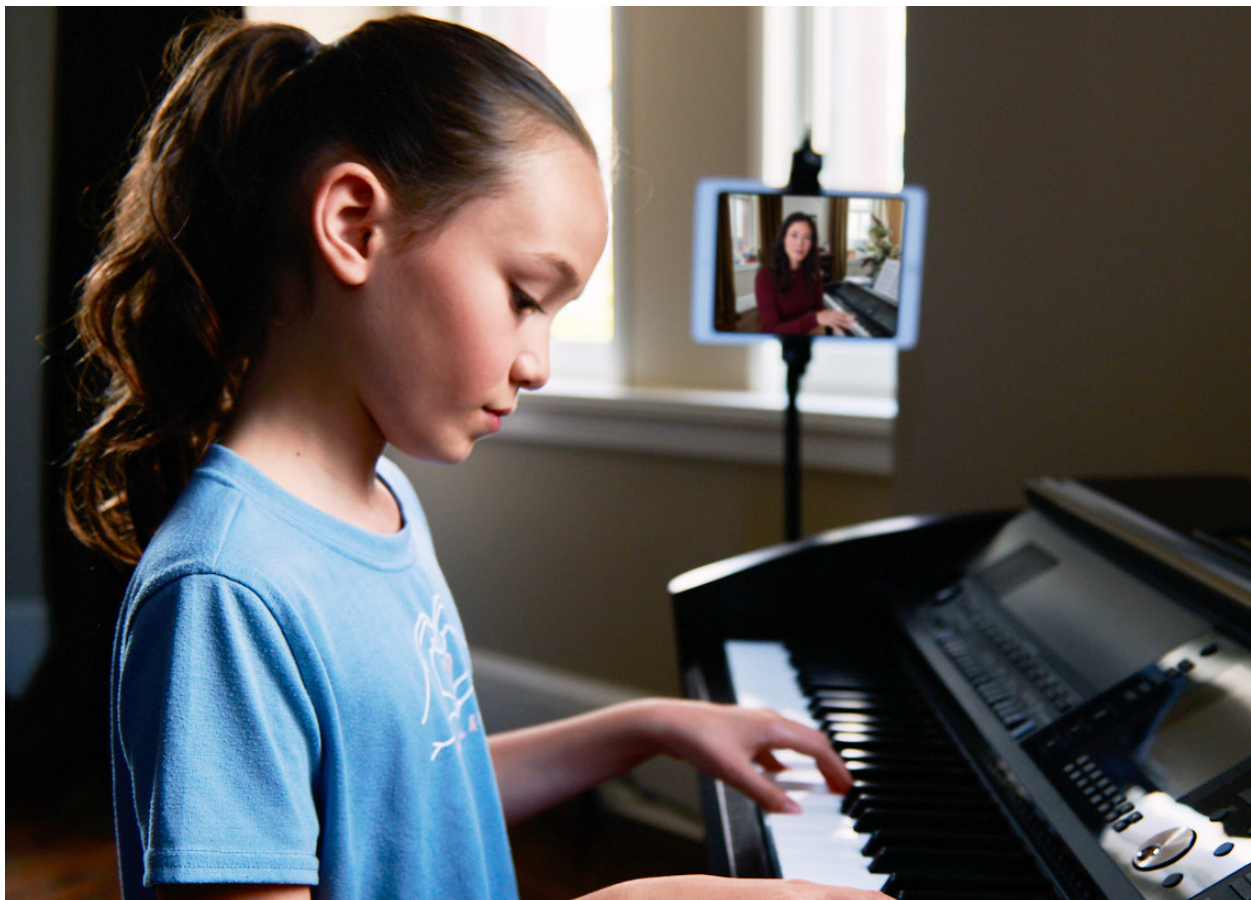
Submitted by,  
Nellie Cronin  
PMTA President



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*From the very start of the remote exam, I experienced the presence of the examiner as if in-person. The quality of the call was clear and was maintained without any interruptions throughout the exam. The part I liked best was that I was able to musically enhance my recital pieces with the stress-level being low.*

*There is nothing better than playing on your own piano for a certifying exam from the comfort zone of your own home!*

- RCM Student, Maya Krishnan

